

# MEMENTO'S TO THE WORLD;

*O R*, An Historical Collection of divers Wonderful Comets and Prodigious Signs in Heaven, that have been seen, some long before the Birth of Christ, and many since that time in divers Countries, with their wonderful and dreadful Effects. Together, with ample Discourses, and profitable Observations, upon that admirable Star which appeared at the Birth of Christ, to the Eastern *MAGI*.

As also upon that Comet which appeared in the Constellation of *Cassiopea*, after the horrid Massacre of the French-*Præstants*, Anno 1572. And several other Comets, with their Effects to this present time.

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*By W. G. Minister of the Gospel.*

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LIKEWISE,  
**STELLA NOVA;**  
OR,

**The New STAR.**

Or, An Account of the Natural Signification of the  
**COMET, or Blazing-Star,**  
That hath so long been Visible in *ENGLAND*, and other  
Countreys, and is yet hanging over our Heads.

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*By William Knight, Secretary.*

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MEN IN VAIN DID NEVER GAZE,  
WHEN A COMET IN THE HEAVENS BLAZE.

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Printed by *T. Halp*, for *T. Passinger*, at the Three Bibles, on *London-Bridge*, 1680.

# MEMENTO

## TO THE WORLD

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### LIKEWISE STELLA NOVA;

### OR, The New Star.

OF AN ACCOUNT OF THE NATURAL SIGNIFICATION OF THE COMET, OR BLAZING-STAR.

That hath so long been Visible in ENGLAND, and other Countries, and is yet hanging over our Heads.

By William Knight, Secretary in Chancery.

Men in rain did never grieve,  
When a Comet in the Heavens shone.

Printed by J. Wall, for T. Baskett, at the Three Bibles, on London-Bridge, 1680.



To the Right Honourable  
**Sir PATIENCE WARD,**  
**Lord Mayor of the City of London.**

My Lord,  
**I** Dedicate unto you this Historical Collection, or Catalogue of Comets, and other prodigious Appearances and Signs in Heaven: These are the Torches and Voices of God speaking and Preaching out of Heaven: for not only his Majesty is in a lively manner set forth unto us, in the Generation, Magnitude, Figure, and Motion of these Bodies, but also something is propounded to be further learned by them, for whatsoever doth not come to pass after the usual manner, although it hath Natural causes, yet it altogether portendeth something or other, and is put for a Sign of certain Events.

Therefore let us neither despise nor deride these fore-Messengers of the Lord: neither let us imitate Vespasian the Emperour, of whom Suetonius relates in his Life, That when a Comet had been shewed unto him he answered jestingly, that That Hairy Comet, or Prodigy, did belong to the King of the Parthians, who nourished long Hair: As if he had said, It appeareth not to me, because I am not Hairy; But he was suddenly punished for his Insolence, for he dyed shortly after; admonishing us by his Example, That it is better sporting with any thing than with the Works of God.

*It is a great contempt of an Artificer, if he set before us  
an admirable piece of work, and he will not behold nor regard  
it, the contempt of the Creature redoundeth unto the Crea-  
tor. Let us therefore imitate the Emperor Lucius, being  
Son of Charles the Great; for when he had beheld a great  
Comet, he was so much affected, that he was unwilling to  
make him sad, alleading those words of Jeremiah, Be not  
dismayed at the Signs of Heaven; for the Heathen are  
dismayed at them, *Jerem. 10. 2.* He devoutly answered,  
Let us fear the maker of this Comet, not the Comet it-  
self; and let us praise his clemency, who seeing we are  
sinners, reproveth our sluggishness by these signs.  
It is Gods clemency before he punisheth us, to send some  
Messengers to forewarn us. Herodorus saith, When God  
is about to punish a City or Nation, he is wont first of all  
to signifie it by Signs and wonders. And a certain famous  
Astronomer thus writeth; As God is affected towards us,  
the Stars in his stead do shine as the Face and Eyes of  
God, that in them, as in a Glass, we may be able to see  
what shall come to pass. Moreover, these Signs are Look-  
ing-Glasses of Gods wrath, who speaketh to us not onely by  
Mans Tongue, by Prophets, Apostles, and Ministers, but  
sometimes also by the Elements themselves, composed into di-  
vers forms and Images, for the terrour of Men. That the  
Name of God is neer, (that is the Wisdom, Power, Goodness  
of God) his wondrous Works do declare to all judicious be-  
holders; better it were for us not to see the works of God, than  
not to have a sight of God in them. Now that all Gods Works  
may lead us unto God himself, is the Prayer of*

Your Lordships most Affectionate  
Servant,

W. G.



## Memento's to the world.

**I**N the year of the world 3854 upon *Demetrius* his death, there appeared a Comet no less in shew than the Sun. At first the Orb was fiery and ruddy, and casting a clear light, whereby the night was enlightened. Afterwards it began to lessen in bigness, and it's brightness vanished, and at last quite disappeared. This was a little before the *Armenian* war. *Senec. natur. quest. l. 7. ca. 15.*

In the same year that *Mithridates* was born there appeared a great Comet. The very same doth *Seneca* speak of.

In the time of *Attalus*'s reign, there appeared a Comet at first but small; but afterwards it elevated and spread it self, and came as far as the Equinoctial Circle: so that it's extent equalled that Region of the heaven which we call the milky way. There also appeared another Comet in the first year of the Reign of *Mithridates*, which shined so bright night and day for LXX days together, that the whole heaven seemed to be all on fire. For, both the Tayl of it covered the fourth part of the Heaven (or 45 degrees of the upper Hemisphere) and outvied the Sun in brightness: and also it's rising took up the space of four hours. This happened in the year of the world, 3881. *Justin. lib. 37. ca. 20.*

In the year from the building of the City of *Rome*, 480 blood was seen to issue from the earth, and milk to flow from heaven in the likeness of rain. A great Pestilence followed in the City; and the number of those that perished was more than those that remained alive. *Silvius.*

Three Suns appeared the next day after the death of *Julius Caesar*, which by little and little were brought back into one solar body. *Justin. lib. 13. ca. 15.*

(2.)

Vellieus  
lib. 2. ca.  
59.

Senec. na-  
tur. quest.  
lib. 2. ca.  
28.

Dio. lib.  
45

Senec. na-  
tur. quest.  
lib. 7. ca.  
17.

Sueton. in  
Julio. ca.  
88.

Amed. 8.  
Dio. lib.  
51. pag.  
445.

In the year of the world 3960, on the 14 Kalends of May, *Octavianus* having heard of *Caesar's* death, came to *Naples*, and as he was coming to *Rome*, a vast company of his friends met him, and when he entered the City, the Globe of the Sun seemed upon his head equally bent, and rounded like a bow (as it were putting a Crown upon the head of him that hereafter was to be so great a man. And *Julius Obsequens de prodigiis*, saith; when he entered the City with a great multitude about him, the Sun being included in the round of a pure and unclouded sky, compassed about with the utmost part of the Circle (as the Rainbow about with the utmost part of the Clouds) namely, a Circle of diverse Colours, as is wont to be in the Rainbow, did at that time compass about the Sun, as it is in *Seneca*.

In the year of the world 3960, on the VI Kalends of October, *Octavianus*, to gain the peoples favour, made those plays that were instituted for the finishing of *Venus's* Temple, at his own charges, as pertaining to him, by reason he came from that stock, and which some during *Caesar's* life-time had undertook that they should solemnize, but yet neglected them. Which whilst he was setting forth, *Seneca* sheweth, That a Comet suddenly brak forth, where he relateth these words of *Octavianus* himself. In the very days of my Plays (saith he) there was a Comet seen seven days together in the North-part of the heaven: it arose about the eleventh hour of the day, it was clear and conspicuous in all lands. The people then generally thought, that by this Star was signified *Caesar's* soul to be received into the number of the Gods. And under that notion was that mark added to the Image of his head, that we (saith he) newly consecrated in the market place; which is also to be seen in some Coyns that were stamped after his death, with the Inscription. *DJVL JULII*, and signified in that of *Virgil*, Thy fathers Star appeared in the North. *Dio* reporteth, that many Prodiges fore-ran the bondage of *Egypt* under the *Romans*; for it rained (as he saith) in those places, in which before there never any drop had fallen, and that not only with water, but with blood also; neither

neither did water alone drop from the clouds, but there appeared Armies there also. A Dragon of an huge vastness was suddenly seen among the *Egyptians*; which hissed horribly: there appeared also Comets, and the images of the dead: the Statues seemed to be sorrowful, and *Apis* made a mournful lowing, and shed tears.

*Of the Star that appeared to the Eastern Magi  
after the birth of Christ.*

One notable consequent of Christ's birth was the apparition of a Star unto the wise men of the East, the *Magi* of *Persia*; whereby it was manifested unto them, that there was born a king of the Jews; which, (doubtless) the Spirit of God did reveal unto them by his inward light, without which this star-light had not been sufficient. These wise men were such as had knowledge in Astronomy, and such profound Sciences, which the ordinaty sort were unacquainted with. But they had as much need of Christ as the poor Shepherds of *Bethlehem*. Hereupon they take an exceeding long journey to visit, yea to worship an infant, which to the eye of the world was of a poor despised estate; for now at his birth there was no room for him in the lane. These Eastern *Magi*, or Privy-Counsellours to the King of *Persia*, (as is probable) come to the Court of the king of *Judah*, and there they ask the Question; *Where is he that is born king of the Jews; for we have seen his Star in the East, and are come to worship him, Math. 2.* Strange news in a Princes Court, that men of that dignity of a Countrey so far distant, and of that wisdom and learning, should come to worship a Child that was born king of the Jews, a people sometime in Captivity under the *Persian* State, and now in likelihood despised by them, and that his Star should appear unto them in their own Countrey. The Gentile Prophet *Balaam* Prophesied, that there should arise a Star out of Jacob, &c. Numb. 24. 17. and *Zoroaster* <sup>*Justin. lib. 1.*</sup> foresaw king of the *Bactrians*, a man excellent in all learning,

test this as a Tradition among the Gentiles. And afterwards it was more plainly published by the *Sybiles*, that a Day-star should appear before the rising of the Sun of Righteousness, This was fresh among the Gentiles until the coming of Christ; for *Virgil* (though misapplying the same) saith,

*Ecce Dionai praeessit Caesaris astrum.*

Rightly applyed thus; That the glorious Star long expected should precede, and foreshew the coming of the *Messias*, Yet *Fulgentius* saith, *Puer natus novam Stellam fabricavit*, Christ being born did of nothing frame this new Star. *His Star*, because he made it, and his Star because it bare witness of him; for the *Magi* being upon the mountain *Vulterialis* worshipping their God (as *Chrysostom* saith) a Star did appear unto them in the similitude of a little Child, and so shewed unto them and to all others, that this Child, even the Son of God was born. And as the Poet saith,

*Fulgent.*  
*fol. 659.*  
*in Otiav.*  
*Serm. de*  
*Epiph.*  
*Chrysost.*  
*homil. 2.*  
*oper. im-*  
*perfect. in*  
*Matth. c. 2.*

*This Star still shining through the heavens doth glide,  
And to the Sun which never sets doth guide.*

*This star was no common star, For,*

1. All stars (as we see) are carried from the East into the West, but this went from the East into the South, for *Palestine* stands Southward from *Persia*.

2. A star loseth his light in the day-time, the Sun a greater light obscuring it, but this star was seen night and day, becoming the more bright in the midst of the Sun's bright shining.

3. This Star shined not continually; but intermitting for a certain time appeareth again. They saw it all the way till they came to *Palestine*, as the guide of their journey. But when they were come to *Herod*, it was hidden, and then it appeared again: when they stood still, it stood still, being ordered for the best benefit of them in their journey. And being instructed at *Jerusalem*, that *Bethlehem* was the place where Christ should be born; the wisemen hereupon go to *Bethlehem*, and there by the conduct of the star they find

find the Babe and his mother, and down they fall and worship him, and forth they bring their presents, or gifts, of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

When they had heard the king (who charged them to go, and bring him word when they had found the young Child, &c.) they departed, and *Lo the star which they saw in the East, went before them, and stood over where the young Child lay.* Either (it seemeth) this star appeared unto them being in the East, and then vanished out of their sight (which is probable) because it is said, *The star which they saw in the East, or else; it ceased to be seen when they came to Jerusalem, when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy, Math. 2. 10.* The star did but appear before, now it goes leisurely (as it were) and directeth them in their way to the house where the Babe lay. This star (as one observeth) was not placed where the rest of the stars are, but in the lower Region of the Air, for otherwise they could not have known by it the place where Christ was, seeing that a star by reason of the great height, seemeth to be over one house as well as another within a great Compass. Moreover it is noted, that this star went and stood over the place where Christ was.

One observeth, To *Bethlehem* the *Magi* come to make enquiry after Christ, whom none ever sincerely sought but they found him.

This star by moving (probably in the low Region of the Air,) sheweth them their way, by standing still at the end of their journey; Coming into the house they find the Royal Babe, and present him with gifts.

Fullers  
Pisgab  
figt. lib. 2  
cap. 14.

of



*Of other great Lights, Comets, and Ominous Stars, &c.  
appearing after the birth of Christ.*

*Saul breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the Disciples of the Lord; obtains of the High-priest Annas, (as it is Act. 4. 6.) and the Council, of which he was then President, letters to the Synagogue of Damascus, that if he found any that were Christians, he should bring them bound to Jerusalem, that they might be punished. And as he came nigh to Damascus, at midday a light from heaven, above the brightness of the Sun, shined round about him, and them that journeyed with him: and when they were all fallen to the earth, he heard a voice speaking to him in the Hebrew Tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for Thee to kick against the pricks, &c.*

*But the men that journeyed with Saul, were so amazed, that they were speechless, seeing indeed a light, and hearing a sound of words, but neither seeing Christ which spake, nor understanding any thing that he spake, Act. 9. 1. 7. XXII. 3. 14. XXVI. 12. 18.*

*Saul arose from the earth, and being blinded with the glory of the light, being led by the hand, he comes to Damascus, Act. 9. 8. & 22. 11. And he was three days without sight, and did neither eat nor drink. Ananias being sent unto Saul, entred into the house, and laying his hands on him, said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus which appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me that thou maist receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy-Ghost, and presently there fell from his eyes as it were scales, and he received his eye sight forthwith, Act. 9. 9. 18. And Ananias said, The God of our fathers hath chosen Thee, that Thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just one, and shouldst hear the voice from his mouth: for Thou shalt be a witness before all men of those things that Thou hast heard and seen, &c. And Saul arose, and was baptized, and when he had received meat he was strengthened.*

*But*

But what was revealed from the Lord to *Saul* at *Damascus* that he should do, *St. Luke* sheweth not in the *Acts*; but out of those things which in the *Epistle to the Galatians* he saith hapned to him immediately after his conversion, it appears, that among other things it was commanded him that he should not confer with flesh and blood, nor return to *Jerusalem*, to them that were Apostles before him, but that he should go for some time into *Arabia*, or places near *Damascus*, where he should receive the knowledge of the *Gospel*: *Not being taught of men, but by the Revelation of Jesus Christ, Gal. 1. 12, 16, 17.* *Saul* then returns to *Damascus*, verse 17. and tarries with the Disciples there a few days, and straitway in the *Synagogue* he preached that *Christ* is the son of *God*.

*Of the Signs that appeared before the destruction  
of the City and Temple of Jerusalem  
by the Romans.*

*Eusebius* saith, that Seducers and authours of lies against *God*, deceived that wretched people of the *Jews* before the destruction of the City and Temple at *Jerusalem*; so that they neither marked those *Prodigious* signes foreshewing the desolations to come, nor gave any credit thereunto; but as astonished, both blind and senseless condemned the divine demonstrations.

*Euseb. Ec-  
cles. hist.  
lib. 3. ca.  
8. Joseph:  
de bello  
Judaic.  
lib. 7. ca.  
12.*

A star stood over the City like a sword, and a Comet enduring the space of a whole year. Again, at the feast of unleavened bread, on the eighth day of the moneth of *April* (a little before their rebellion and warlike tumult) in the night at nine of the Clock, so great a light overspread the Altar and the Temple, that it seemed to be clear day, continuing the space of half an hour. At the same feast the East gate of the inner Temple, though of brass, and most strong, so that in the evening twenty men could scarce

scarce shut it, being bolted with iron bars, and strengthened with long posts and pillars: in the night-time about the sixth hour was seen to have opened voluntarily of it self.

A few days after the feast (*viz.* May 21.) there was seen the figure and shape of the Devil. Before Sun-set there were seen in the air throughout the Countrey, Chariots and armed Soldiers marching in the Clouds, and encompassing the City round about.

In the feast of *Pentecost*, when the Priests (after the manner) went into the Temple in the night season to offer sacrifice, they reported that they heard a commotion, and a rattling sound. with this voice, *Migremus hinc*, let us go hence. The afflictions which followed hereupon were correspondent to the signs. Eleven hundred thousand of the Jews perished in the six moneths siege of *Jerusalem*. But for those that perished out of *Jerusalem*, *Lipsius* hath made a large Catalogue out of *Josephus* the Jew, who was a commander in that war, and wrote the History of it, which number of the dead being added to the eleven hundred thousand that perished at the siege of *Jerusalem*, makes up the number of 1337490. an innumerable company, being committed, that perished through famine, banishment, and other miseries.

*Just. Lip.  
lib. 7. de  
Constant.  
cap. 21.*

*Pedacot.  
Mexio.  
histor.  
Roman.  
Imperat.*

Whilst diverse men were plotting and conspiring against the Emperour *Domitian*; among other signs which then were seen, there appeared for many dayes together round about the Sun a great bright shining Crown, that did compass it about, which resembled the Rain-bow against foul weather, but that was a whole Crown that did environ the Sun in such manner, as it bereaved and Eclipsed the same of its brightness. Which signal, men did interpret to signifie a change and alteration in the Empire, with the death of *Domitian*. And in as much as *Stephanus* in Greek signifies a Crown, there were some which conceived, that *Stephanus* who was Steward to his wife and Empress *Do-*

*misilla*

*micilla* should kill him, notwithstanding they knew nothing of the Conspiracy of *Stephanus* and others then against him, by whom he was shortly after slain.

When *Constantine* the Emperour prepared to fight with *Maxentius*, and stood in fear and doubt of the issue of the Battel, as well for the great number of the Enemies, as for *Maxentius* his enchantments, wherewith he amazed the World, he was in great care and perplexity. And as he gave credit to the Christians, and was their Protector and Defender, (albeit, he was not yet baptiz'd) but had a firm stedfast hope in Jesus Christ. *Eusebius Cassiodorus*, and others write, That he saw in the Heavens a Light-some Pillar, of a Fiery Colour, in form of a Cross, and therewith he heard this voice, *In hoc signo vinces*, In, or by vertue of this sign thou shalt overcome. The which Vision so amazed the Emperour, that he mistrusting his own sight, demanded of them that were present, whether they perceived the Vision, which when all with one consent had affirmed, the wavering mind of the Emperour was settled with that wonderful sight, so as he presently assured himself of Victory, and therefore caused the sign of the Cross to be made in his Imperial Standard; and joyning with the Enemy right over against *Rome*, near to a Bridge over the River *Tiber*, called *Pons Milvius*, at the beginning of the fight *Maxentius* was overcharged by *Constantinus* his Vantgard, and fled: and entring upon the Bridge which he had made of Barks and Boats near to the other, both he and his Horse fell into the River, where he was drowned, which Bridge himself had caused to be made; to the end therewith, to have deceived his Enemy.

In the dayes of *Sigebert*, *Chitperic*, and *Gumthran*, Kings of *France*, certain Comets and prodigious signs were seen in the Heavens. A fire falling from Heaven, consumed the City of *Orleans* (whereof, and the Territory about it, *Gumthran* was King) and the City of *Bour-*

*deaux*, together with the fruits of the Earth. There followed almost throughout all *France* a malignant Cough and bloody Flux, which destroyed multitudes of men and Women ; by which means that evil Woman *Ausigildis*, Wife of King *Gumbran*, perished. The said King *Gumbran* died within a year following.

After the death of *Theodoricus*, who had made himself Lord of all *Italy*, there appeared many signs in Heaven: In the North the Heaven seemed fiery, and certain shining Spears were seen, and the Moon was much obscured. And a Comet appeared at *Tholouse*.

Terrible signs were seen by Night in *Italy* in the year of our Lord 570. For fiery swords appeared in the Heavens, and blood distilled from the Clouds, which signified the effusion of much blood, which hapned afterwards, and many great storms continuing many dayes. The River *Tiber* was increased with so great a force of waters, that many people that lived in low places were drowned. Two Animals appeared in the form of a Man and Woman, from the Morning till Nine of the Clock, with long hair hanging down to the Loynes. The Water covered their other parts. And they write, That a Mountain in *France*, with a great Noise was cleft asunder.

In the time of the Emperour *Iustinian* the first, (as *Procopius* writeth, ) for the greatest part of one whole year, the Sun gave so little Light, that it was but equal to, or little more then the Light of the Moon, the Sky being clear, and without Clouds, or any other thing to shadow the same. And so without any apparent occasion it was obscured all that time ; which (as it was afterward conjectured) was the Prognostick of the Famine and want of grain, which generally ensued throughout all the World, and of the Wars and effusion of Blood which followed in  
*Italy* ;



*Italy*; and of the taking, burning, and destruction of *Rome* by *Torila*.

In the time of the Emperour *Heraclius*, (who took upon him the Government of the Empire in the year of our Lord 611.) at *Constantinople* Fire fell from Heaven, and there appeared a great Bow in the Heavens, so that Men thought that the end of the World was at hand, by reason of the great Thundrings and Lightnings. There followed a most grievous Pestilence, which consumed many in the Summer Months. And many Prodigies, and dreadful things appeared at this time in *Greece*, which seemed to portend the future Calamities under *Mahomet*. And in one and the same year a very bright Comet was seen at *Constantinople*, and a Child was born with four Feet. And in the Isle *Delon*, two very great Monsters were seen, having altogether humane shape. And many other things here and there like unto this did appear.

In the Reign of the Emperour *Constantine* IV. an hairy Comet appeared three Months, which was the forerunner of great Slaughters: And there happened so many, and so great Tempests and alterations in the air, as it seemed, that the four Elements had conspired against Mankind; for the Winds were so furious and violent, as that they overthrew many buildings, and rent up many Trees by the roots, and the rain likewise was so great, and tempestuous, as it destroyed all their Tillage, as well for Bread-Corn as all other kinds of Herbs and Seeds. And therewith fell an infinite number of Thunderbolts, and Fires from Heaven, which slew a great number of Men and Cattel, especially on this side of the *Alps*. And after a great Eclipse of the Sun and Moon, the City of *Papia* was almost utterly destroyed by a raging Pestilence, so that the People which survived, fled to the Mountains, and grafs grew in the City.

About the time of King *Luitprand* King of the *Lombards*, two Comets appeared in the Month of *January*, and the Sun was darkened, and lost his light for fifteen dayes, whereof one went before the Sun, the other followed it in the Evening.

About the Death of Pope *Leo* the third, who crowned and declared *Charles* the Great, King of *France* to be Emperour, a Comet appeared, and the Sun lost his light for Fifteen dayes. This Pope died, *Anno* 816.

In the second year of *Lotharius*, Son of the Emperour *Ludovicus Pius*, and Grandson to *Charles* the great, there appeared a Comet; Hail of great bigness fell in *France*, which slew many men, and much Cattel. There was also seen in those Hail-stones Corn of a wonderful Length; and of an hard substance. An Earthquake also shook *Italy*, and in certain places divers Mountains were overwhelmed, and divers Cities perished. *Lotharius* warred against his brethren *Lewes*, and *Charles*; and a great Battel being fought, the Flower of the *French* Nobility was slain, and in number more men died; than in any other Battel had hapned in *France* ever since the Battel which was fought between *Ecius* and *Attila*, King of the *Hunnes* in the Fields of *Catalonia*.

About this time, an innumerable Company of Locusts, Having six Wings, and two Teeth harder than stones, covered the Earth in *France* like Snow. At length being cast into the Sea, and upon Land by the Shore, there followed great putrefaction; which infecting the Air, caused a general destruction of men.

In the beginning of the Reign of the Emperour *Lewes* the Second, for three dayes it rained Blood at the City of *Brescia* in *Lombardy* so fresh, and so perfect, as if it had been

been of a Bull, or of some other Beast lately killed.

In the time of *Edward* the Son of *Edgar* King of *England* appeared a Comet, after which followed a great Dearth and Mortality to men, and murrain upon Beasts, and there arose a great contention between the Priests and Monks.

In the days of Pope *Leo*, VII. the Sun seemed to reign blood, as *Massens* writeth. and after it followed a great Pestilence among men.

In the first year of Pope *Martin* III. a great Blazing Star appeared in *Italy*, after which followed an extreame Famine. And again, the Sun appeared very dreadful. *Martin* died, Anno 947.

A little before the death of the Emperour *Otho* the Second, many Prodiges appeared in *Italy*; for a Stone of wonderful bigness fell from Heaven in the midst of a great storm and tempest. And the sign of the Cross appeared on the Garments of many; and some of them were of a bloody colour; which many did interpret to portend great Slaughters, and the Calamity of the Church. In *Italy* a Comet of wonderful bigness appeared, presaging the Famine which followed.

In the time of Pope *John* XVI. appeared a Comet, after which followed both Famine and Pestilence, with terrible Earthquakes, which shook both *Benevento* and *Capua*. *John* died Anno 985.

In the third year of the Emperour *Henry* the Second, a Comet appeared dreadful to behold, dispersing his Flames hither and thither. And in the seventh year of his Reign there was a great Eclipse of the Sun, and the Moon seemed to be turned into Blood; and there was a great Earthquake,

quake, and a burning Torch like a Bow fell from Heaven with great noise; there suddenly followed a great Famine, and a little after a great Pestilence raged almost all the World over, but chiefly in *Italy*, so that the dead were accounted more than the living; And in *Lorrain* there was a Fountain turned into Blood.

*Henry* the Third came to the Empire, *Anno* 1040. and in his time there was seen a Fiery Beam of wonderful greatness between the South and the East, running upon the Sun, which at the Sun setting fell upon the Earth.

In the Reign of *Herold* King of *England*, a fearful Comet appeared, which lasted seven days, the *English* being now ready for a War.

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nicle in  
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queror.*

In the time of King *William* the Conqueror, a Blazing Star appeared upon *Palm Sunday*, being the 16th. of *April*, 1076. about six of the Clock, when the Air was fair and clear. About the same time was a general Earthquake in *England*, and in the Winter following, a Frost that continued from the first of *November*, until the middle of *April*.

In the time of *Baldwin* the Second, King of *Jerusalem*, an unusual Star appeared the first week in *Lent*, in the Evening in the South West, and shined at one and the same hour for Twenty Five days. After this, were seen two Moons a little before day, one in the East, and the other in the West; and not long after a Comet putting forth long and flaming Hairs, appeared, which *Elmerus* the Monk beholding, said, did threaten the destruction of that Countrey.

In the year 1094. in the Reign of *William Rufus*, King of *England*, many hideous sights were seen in *England*, as Hosts of Men fighting in the Air, flashes of Fire, Comets, and falling Stars, and such like Prodigies. And the same year both *England* and *Normandy* were sore vexed with Mortality both of Men and Beasts, insomuch that Tillage  
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of the Ground was laid aside in divers places, by reason whereof there followed great Dearth and Famine.

About the year of our Lord 1100. Fiery Swords appeared in Heaven, which being dispersed through the whole Heaven, were seen the greatest part of the Night, and very many Stars seemed to fall from Heaven upon the Earth. And the smoak went out with an hissing, as by Waters poured upon it. A most sharp Winter followed, and a great Famine followed it, and a Mortality of Men, and murrain of Beasts, both Wild and Tame; and Birds fighting together in great Numbers, destroyed one another; Moreover, a great Earthquake in *Italy* lasted the space of Forty days; so that divers Towns and Villages were overthrown. And the Moon being in an Eclipse, was turned into a bloody colour. And a Woman brought forth a Monster, having a double Body, having also before the Face of a Man, and behind the Face of a Dog. About this time died *Johannes de Temporibus*, who had been an *Esquire* to the Emperour *Charles* the Great, having lived 361 Years.

In the Seventh year of *Henry* the First, King of *England*, upon a Friday night in the first week in *Leam*, there was seen a strange Star between the South and the West, which appeared every Night at an hour, and so continued for the space of Twenty Five dayes; and over against that Star out of the East appeared a great and bright Beam, which stretched it self toward the said Star. And not long after were seen two Moons, one in the East, the other in the West.

In the Thirteenth year of the same Kings Reign, at *Shrewsbury* was a great Earthquake, and at *Nottingham* from Morning until Evening. The River of *Trent* was so dried up, that men went over on foot dry. Thereupon followed an hard Winter, great Mortality of People, and scarcity of Victuals by reason of the great murrain of Beasts. A Comet, or Blazing Star appeared in a strange form, for rising in the East, when once it came aloft in the

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Firmament, it kept not its course forward, but seemed to go backward, as if it had been retrograde.

About the year 1157. three Suns appeared together in the West; after two hours the other failing, that which was in the middle did also set. After the same manner in the next year three Moons appeared, and in the middle of one the sign of the Cross. These signs were interpreted by some to be a token of the grievous discord of the Cardinals in the Election of the Pope; and of the Princes in the Election of the Emperour. Earthquakes about this time where almost every where, and did shake some Provinces many years, especially *Syria* and *Silicia*, in which many Cities did long shake, and some of them were overwhelmed with great destruction of People.

In the third year of *John*, King of *England*, there were seen in *Yorkshire* five Moons; one in the East, the second in the West, the third in the North, the fourth in the South, and the fifth (as it were) set in the midst of the other, having many Blazing Stars about it, and went five or six times encompassing the other, as it were the space of one hour, and shortly after vanished away. The following Winter was extremely cold, more than the natural course had been aforetime; and in the Spring time there fell such abundance of Rain, as caused the Rivers to swell with higher floods then they had been accustomed, which caused great inundations. This Kings Reign was full of troubles; Pope *Innocent III.* Excommunicated and deposed him, and put *England* in interdict, bestowed it upon *Philip August*, King of *France*, upon condition of Conquering it, and afterwards takes off the Interdict, receives homage from King *John*, and makes *England* a see of the Roman See, and that King his Vassal.

In the year of our Lord 1256. in the Reign of King *Henry III.* many wonders hapned. A Comet appeared; the Sea rose with most high Tides; Rivers were so filled with abundance of water by reason of the great and continued Rain, that wonderful Floods followed there-  
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thereupon; and many high Buildings were beaten down by the force of Tempests.

In the same Kings Reign, there appeared a Comet very dreadful to behold, for the Space of 30 days together. Moreover on the Coast of *England*, there was a great Bartel among the Fishes of the Sea, so that there were eleven Whales cast on Land, beside other huge and monstrous Fishes, which appeared to be dead of some hurts received: And one of those mighty Fishes coming into the *Thames* alive, was pursued by the Fisher-men, and it could scarce pass through the Arches of *London-Bridge*. At length with Darts and other such Weapons, they slew him before the Kings Mannor at *Mortlack*, whither they followed him. There was also a great sound heard the same Year in sundry parts of *England* at one and the same time, as if it had been the noise of some mighty Mountain that had fallen into the Sea.

A Comet of notable magnitude appeared in the Heavens in the Year 1263, rising from the East, above three Months with great brightness, and did send forth his rays to the midst of Heaven, setting towards the West. When he first appeared Pope *Urban IV.* began to be Sick, but in the same Night that *Urban* Dyed, he began to disappear.

Soon after the Coronation of *Edward I.* King of *England*, there hapned such an Earth-quake with Lightning and Thunder, and therewithal the appearing of a Burning-Drake, and a Blazing-Star, or Comet, that the people were filled with great fear and astonishment.

In the time of *Wenceslaus* the Third, King of *Bohemia*, there Appeared in the Heaven a large Comet, which did preface the great Destruction which followed; in which Year upon Saint *Andrew's* Day there hapned a great Earth-quake, which lasting divers Days by Intervals, overthrew many Buildings.

In the Year 1315, Three Moons Appeared together in the Heaven, and a Comet was seen in the North, which lasted Three Months. It vanishing, in the same Year in the Month of *November*, *Phillip* King of *France* dyed, a Boar breaking the Legs of his Horse as he was Hunting, he fell from his Horse, of which fall he dyed shortly after.

In the Ninth Year of King *Edward* the Second, before *Christmas*, a blazing-Star, or Comet, Appeared in the North part of the Firmament, for the space of a Month together : After it followed a woful Famine, for Victuals was so scant and dear, and other Grain raised to so high a price, that the poor people were constrained through Famine, to eat the Flesh of Horses, Dogs, and other wild Beasts, and many starved, having nothing to feed upon throughout the Land. After this Dearth and scarcity of Victuals, ensued a great Mortality of people; so that what with the War with the *Scots*, and with the Famine and Pestilence, the people of *England* were wonderfully wasted and consumed.

In the Year 1337, in the Tenth Year of the Reign of King *Edward* III. a Comet, or Blazing-Star Appeared with long and terrible Streams passing from it, which continued thirty Days. Soon after the *French* burnt *South-hampton*, which they almost wholly consumed to Ashes, and did many other mischiefs with their Ships on the Coasts of *England*.

In the Year 1351, in the North there Appeared a Comet in the Month of *December*, which being extinct, violent Winds followed, and a Celestial Beam was seen to glide along the Heavens, the former part of it burning. And they write, that before the Death of Pope *Innocent* VI. there was so great a refection of the Sun, as the like had not been before seen.

In the Month of *March*, in the Year of our Lord 1402, and third Year of *Henry* IV. King of *England*, there Appeared a Blazing-Star, first between the Eastern part of the Firmament, and the North flashing forth Fire and flames round about; and lastly, shooting forth Fiery Streams towards the North, fore-shewing (as was thought) the great effusion of Blood which followed about the parts of *Wales* and *Northumberland*.

In the Year 1438, there was a great Eclipse of the Sun, and divers Wars and Dissentions followed. A Comet also Appeared, and there followed a slaughter of Men in *Loego*.

In the Three and Thirtieth Year of the Reign of *Henry* VI. King of *England*, during the Civil Wars between the Houses of *Lancaster* and *Tork*, a Comet Appeared in the Month of *June*, the Beams whereof extended it self into the South, of which King *Henry* and his Son felt the sad effects.

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In the Year 1456, a Comet was seen in the East in the month of *June*, in the Fifteenth degree of *Cancer*, a very great Earthquake followed on the 3<sup>th</sup> Day of *December*, at Eleven a Clock at Night ; And another on the Thirtieth Day of the same Month, such as in the memory of Man there had not any where been seen the like for vehemency, especially in *Apulia*, *Naples*, *Beneventum*, and many other Cities and Towns round about, many Temples and Pallaces, and other Houses, were overwhelmed, with the Destruction of many Men and Cattel. The like hapned at *Cajeta*, *Capua*, *Aversa*, and therest of the Cities of old *Campania*.

In the Year 1457, another followed, which they called a black Comet, in the Month of *June*, in the 20 degree of *Pisces*, which was seen for the space of a month, and did variously affect the minds of Men.

A great Comet Appeared throughout the month of *January*, in the beginning of the Year 1472, in a Fiery colour, with long and black hairs bending towards the West, whose body was about the entrance of *Libra* ; afterwards it bended it self onely in the North, that it might be judged that it went out without the *Zodiack*, and it continued Fourscore days. But this Comet being scarce dissolved, another Appeared, of a fiery hair, which seemed to be seated in the Sign of *Aries*, and its Tayl stretched out it self towards the East : A grievous Drought followed, and a Pestilence, and most cruel and bloody Wars in many places.

There were Two Comets seen before the Battel of *Crescy* in *France*, where though the *English* got a great Victory over the *French* by the Sword, so it seemeth (as our Chronicles do relate) that the Sword of the Destroying Angel slew a multitude of the *English* at home.

*Phillip* the first, King of *Spain*, and Father to the Emperour *Charles V.* being at *Tudele* of *Duero*, there Appeared a strange Comet in the Firmament, foreshewing (as they said afterward) the Approaching Death of King *Phillip*, which happened soon after in the City of *Burgos*, to the general grief of all his Subjects ; the Comet still Appearing, whereunto he did Attribute his Death, saying often in his pains and agonies, *Ha Cometa,*

*his Comet.* He dyed in the Year of our Lord, 1506, having Reigned one Year and Ten Months. His Body was laid many Years after by his Son *Charles*, in the Royal Chappel of *Grando*, having remained in divers places.

In Queen *Maries* Reign, in the Year of our Lord, 1556, a Blazing-Star was seen at all times of the Night, on the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth of *March*, a little before the Burning of *Thomas Cranmer*, Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*.

The Horrid Massacre of the Protestants in *France*, being Acted *August 24*, &c. 1572, a Grave Writer relates, That about a quarter of a Year after, *Viz. November 17*, there Appeared a Star in the Constellation of *Cassiopea*, *Mira magnitudinis*, & *perspicuus luce praeulenta*, of Wonderful bigness, and very resplendent with a perspicuous light; He saith, That many Men passed their Judgments upon it, *Eruditorumq; haec deo futuris versis*; *Beza* hath divers Verses upon it, I take it the last was this,

*Tu vero Herodes Sanguine norente cave.*  
And thou bloody Herod beware.

Pointing (I suppose) to the French King, *Charles the IX.* and others, Authors of and Actors in that Barbarous and Bloody Tragedy. He addeth, *Ille totos novem menses in caelo Emicuit.* That Star shined clearly for the space of nine whole Months in the Heaven. The King himself Dyed *May 30*. 1574. about one year and three quarters after the Massacre; and one year and an half after the appearing of the Comet. Of whom my Author saith, *Profluvio sanguinis illum laborasse certum est. Constans vero fert fama, illum dum evarijs corporis partibus sanguis emanaret, in lecto saepe volutatum, inter horribilium blasphemiarum diras, quibus ab enorme aetate affectus erat, Monumetum eorum nomen saepe concitatae deinde sententiae solitum appellare. Quum vero magna erat veneni suspitione dominus facillior esset, ajunt pulvinaribus impositum, cernuo capite, & Paulo erectioribus sursum pedibus, tantam sanguinis vim proiecisse, ut paucas post horas Mortuus fuerit: inter ultimas autem voces meras Blasphemias auditas fuisse.*



It seemeth before he died he laid Siege to *Rochel*, because the *Protestants* there stood upon their Guard, and would not put themselves into the Butchers hands; where the Duke of *Anmerle*, Uncle to the Duke of *Guise*, was slain, and about twenty thousand others; whereof many (not most of them) were Actors in that prodigious Cruelty: and the rest seemed to have made themselves accessory to it by this after Act, in joyning with the Murtherers to root out the remainders of the *Protestants*.

*Henry* Duke of *Anjou*, and King of *Poland*, succeeded his Brother *Charles*, by the Name of *Henry* the Third, and became very despicable; the Duke of *Guise* giving him Check-mate, his Subjects slighting him, and adhering to *Guise*. The King finding him too strong for him, took a course to Entrap him, sending for him to *Blois*, under pretence of making him Governour over the Kingdom under him, and caused him there to be Stabbed with his Brother the *Cardinal*. And thus fell another principal Contriver of, and Agent in the *Mallacre*; and it is thought in the same Chamber where that *Cockatrice-Egg* was hatched. But upon this Execution the *French* were more enraged against their King then ever, taking the Government of the Kingdom out of his Hands, as if he had been already dead, and setting up the Duke of *Mayenne*, Brother to *Guise*, as their Chief, who by the help of the *Spaniard*, headed the Faction, and carried on the Design. The King reduced to great extremity, was constrained to desire aid from the King of *Navar*, and his *Protestant* followers, whom he had so cruelly persecuted; who proved faithful to him, being in a likely way to have re-established him: But one *James Clement* a *Jacobine Monk*, stabbed him about the year 1589.

His younger Brother the Duke of *Alenxon*, being chosen by the *Netherlanders* for their Governour, and Protector against the *Spaniards*, and most unworthily taking advantage of that trust, they reposed in him to oppose their Liberty, and Tyrannize over them: the Plot being discovered, and both his design and Honour being lost, he Dyed in the flower of his Age, as was thought, of Grief, before his Elder Brother. Thus these three Sons of King *Henry* the Second, were taken away in the space of seventeen years after the *Mallacre*, or thereabout,

bout, without Issue Male, besides an Elder Brother *Francis* the Second, who Dyed very young before that Tragedy: And the Crown was Translated to another Family, namely, that of *Bourbon*. *Henry* of *Navar* being called by his Predecessor from the remote parts of the Kindom (Providence so ordering it) as it were to receive the Royal Diadem on the other side the *Protestants*, who seemed almost extinguished (divers of the *Po-pish* Nobility joyning with them for Politick ends, and Aid coming in from *Germany*, especially under *Casmire* of the *Palatine* Family) they obtained better Conditions, and enjoyed their Liberty in a more settled way than formerly.

Upon the 8th. day of *October*, in the Two and twentieth year of the Reign of *Queen Elizabeth*, Anno 1580, immediately after the New Moon, there appeared a *Blazing-Star* in the *South*, pointing towards the *East* with its Streams; which was seen every night (the Air being clear) more than two Months: Shortly after there arrived upon the *West-Coast* of *Ireland*, a certain company of *Italians* and *Spaniards*, sent by the *Pope* to the aid of the Earl of *Dasmond* in his Rebellion, which were defeated by the Lord *Gray* of *Wilson*, Deputy of *Ireland*.

In the Reign of King *James*, in the Year of our Lord, 1618. there appeared a *Comet* with a very long Tayl, seen here in *England*, and in other Countries, for almost two months together. After it followed the dreadful Calamity of *Germany*; *Prague* was taken in the year 1620. and the *Palatinate* was lost. And the Edicts of the Emperour *Ferdinand* the Second, were published in *Bohemia* and *Moravia*, in the Year 1624, against all the Gospel Ministers, commanding, That whosoever refused to forsake their Heresie (as their Gospel-profession was called) and come into the Bosome of the Church (namely of *Rome*) should depart from their Native Country, and never return more. Of the *Comet* that appeared in the year 1618 aforesaid, *Antonins de Dominis*, Bishop of *Spalato*, who saw it, saith thus: *Cometes qui his diebus nobis fulget, est unum ex phenomenon Astronomicis, ex ijs qua Phenomena vera sunt, non Phantastica, et Oculum fallentia: et tamen res est vera et realis, Exhalatio nempe accensa et ardens.*

A terrible *Comet* appeared in the Year 1652. which the Mother princefs, the Mother of *Racoci*, prince of *Transylvania*, saw

saw with her Court, living, and being then in the Castle of *Munkersy*, there came forth the debates of divers Astrologers, describing his Pale face, and the Compasses of his most swift course, as scarce was ever of any Comet before, *Comenius* tells us, that himself hapned to see the Judgments of four divers Authors, not disagreeing in the Event; *Michael Guller* the *Silesian* very neer touching the Mark. This proved Ominous to the House of Prince *Racoci*. In the Year 1657 and 1658. the Prince going with an Army into *Poland*, and not entering into an agreement with the *Turk* and *Tartar*, but hiding his Enterprize from the *Turk*, he conceiving a suspicion of Rebellion, sent the *Tartar* upon his back; and shortly after came Letters in a threefold course from C. S. the Secretary of the Prince of *Transylvania*, Historically relating the Ruine of his Prince.

*Comen.  
Histor.  
German.  
Prophet.*

And for the two Comets that appeared in the Year 1664. divers Astrologers then gave their Judgements, conceiving, That that in the Morning being Red and Fiery, portended War; That in the Evening being of a Pale and Melancholick colour, signified Death and Mortality; and some of them did shake their heads, fearing sad Consequents upon the appearance of two such Stars so suddenly after each other; and ye know what sad Effects followed the next Summer ensuing, *Viz.* In the Year 1665, namely, the of the *English* with the War *Dutch*, and that Devouring Plague that swept away above an Hundred Thousand Persons in the City of *London* and many Hundreds also in divers other places of this Kingdom.

*Anno 1677.* A Comet appeared in *April*, the next Year the Hellish *Popish*-Plot, was by the mercy of God happily discover'd.

And now again, God hath shewed us other Signs in Heaven, by the appearance of two New Prodigies, one appeared in the South-East in the Morning, the other in the Evening. What else (I pray) doth God by these Signs seek to shew, than his Wrath to an Impenitent World? He is the God that *maketh Signs and Wonders in Heaven and in Earth*, Dan. 6. 28. Therefore whosoever feareth God, let him say with *David*, *Come, and see the Works of the Lord, how Terrible he is in his Doings towards the Children of Men.*

Now seeing these Signs in the Heavens are of God, let us take

take heed that we do not despise God in his Works. Among the *Romans*, when the General caused a Purple Coat to be hung out over his Pavilion, and the Trumpet to sound, what Soldier in the Camp durst to Neglect it, and not take notice of it as a Sign of Battel? How much more when the Lord of Hosts holds forth his Flagg, and displayeth his Ensignes, signifying what he is about to do; and if not making it known what it is in particular, yet shewing, that he hath some special Work in hand, how carefully should we observe these things, and prepare for the worst that may happen. But the blindness of Carnal Reason darkens the minds of many worldly-wise persons, that they cannot see far off, as the Apostle speaks in another case. Carnal Reason is of too low a stature in this case, our thoughts must climb the Sycamore-Tree like *Zachheus*; or we must get up into our Watch-Tower like the Prophet *Habakkuk*, we must take our standing higher, and look above the whole Creation, and seriously think of the Creatour, God himself, the first mover and Principal Worker in all these things.

Moreover, Men and Women are so generally in love with the World, and do so earnestly desire, mind, seek, and affect earthly things, either their Pleasures, Profits, or Earthly hopes, &c. that they have no leisure to mind the special works of God, which are Signs of the times, and give Warning of things at hand. Therefore, saith *Solomon*, *Ecc. 9. 12.* Man knoweth not his time. As the Fishes that are taken in an evil Net, and as the Birds that are caught in the Snare, so are the Sons of Men snared in an evil time, when it falls suddenly upon them. As the Bird wholly minding the Bait, is taken in the Snare which it minded not. So the Sons of Men wholly minding the profits or pleasures, or other things of this World, heed not the Signs of the times, and so are snared in an evil time.

The love of Sin also possessing the Hearts of Men, keeps many from discerning the Works of God. It is Wonderful to consider, how the people of *Israel* were besotted this way, so as not to see the visible and apparent signs of the times, as they had before their Eyes; The Thunderings and Lightenings

ings upon Mount *Sinai*, the found of the Trumpet exceeding loud, the Voice of God striking an awful Terroure into their Hearts, the Cloudy Pillar every Day, the Pillar of Fire every Night was continually as a shining light before their Faces; the Glory of the Lord often Appearing: Bread sent them down all the Six Days of the Week from Heaven; the Rock becoming as a Fountain of Water to them in the Wilderness, which Water followed them in their several Stations: Were not these Signs to them of an extraordinary time, wherein God was more than in an ordinary manner present with them, and would be sanctified in them, sith he had brought them so neer unto himself? And yet, as if it had been but an ordinary time, and as if they had had no more to do with the onely true God than other people, nor any more special relation to him, as if he had done no more for them than for the *Egyptians*; they gave themselves over to divers sins, as to foul Idolatry (it seemeth) in the sight of Mount *Sinai*, to lusting after Quails and Delicates, to commit Fornication with the Daughters of Idolaters, and then also to joyn with them in spiritual Whoredom and Service of their Idols: Some of them to Ambition, contending with *Aaron* for the Priesthood, whom God had called and consecrated to that Office; so strangely had the love of Sin bewitched and blinded their minds, that without regarding the Signs of the times, they ran into the Snare, and oftentimes brought many stroaks upon themselves.

Great also is the security of Men and Women: This is a general Disease to which the World is subject, and as the old World was in a dead Sleep of Wretched security, until the Flood-Gates of Heaven, with the noise of an irresistible Judgment Awakened them, when they Awoke to see themselves perishing, neither *Noah's* Preaching, nor the knocking about the Ark before, could Awaken them; so there are many who lye slumbering and sleeping in deep security, and no loud crys from the Word do Awaken them to make them open their Eyes, to see the signs of the times, that they might either avoid the evil which the time is about to bring forth, or embrace the Good which the opportunity of the time offereth to them.



Gods Judgements are there most heavy, where his greatest mercies are most Abused: *Jerusalem* had had such mercies, as no City under Heaven since the beginning of the World in some respect; and these she most grievously Abused, and was most unthankful to the Giver; and therefore the Lord brought on her such misery as no City ever felt: No City had sinned like *Jerusalem*, none had such mercies against which they could sin; no City suffered like to her, when once the Lords Abused patience turned into Anger and heavy displeasure: This should Awaken *England*, which is the Field which God hath Sowed in his Love, but through our unthankfulness seemeth to have buried or lost a multitude of mercies: No Nation under Heaven at this present, hath so many mercies to reckon for as we: If the Lord should deal in Justice with us, what people since the beginning of the World hath deserved greater punishments? If every Parish, every Family, every Person, would look into themselves, and see what mercies, what means they have had, or might have had for Soul or Body, what Catalogues might they make, and what wrath might they think they had deserved? Let us all look home, and know, that nothing shall plead more strongly against impenitent and unthankful persons at the last day, than mercies themselves.

The Great God of Heaven and Earth doth not onely speak to Men with the Tongues of Prophets, Apostles, and Teachers; but sometimes also by the Elements, Composed or wrought into divers Forms and Shapes. if we will believe what is Credibly reported, the Heavens have been of late Chequered with Strange and Prodigious Sights: but what is most Remarkable, is, That a Comet or Blazing-Star, for many Weeks have been Visible to all, or most parts of *Europe*, and other places, as the *Gazettes* testifie; and there's so many people in *England*, nay in *London*, that by Ocular Experience can subscribe to the truth of it, that there needs no further Narrative. When God intends to punish a Nation, Country, or City, he is first pleased to give them notice thereof by Apparitions or Prodigies; and there hath never been any notable Apparition or Prodigy seen in the Heavens, but it hath been atten-

ded in the Sequel with some more then ordinary Troubles, or Change here on Earth, according to this Illustration of *Dubartas*: Viz.

*Here in the Night appears a Flaming Spire,  
There a Fierce Dragon, folded all in Fire:  
Here a Bright Comet, there a Fiery Stream,  
Here Flying Launces, there a Burning Beam:  
Here seems a Horned Goat, Environ'd round  
With Fiery Flakes, about the Air so bound;  
There with Long Bloody Hair, a Blazing-Star,  
Threatning the World with Famine, Plague, and War;  
To Princes Death, to Kingdoms many Crosses,  
To all Estates, Inevitable Losses:  
To Herds-men Rot, to Plow-men Hapless Seasons,  
To Saylor's Storms, to Cities Civil Treasons.*

Thus much of Prodigies in general, now to know the Signification of each particular Comet, for they have not all one and the same portences; we must, according to the Documents of *Astrologers*, observe their Colours, place, and motion in the Heavens, &c. And that I may be well understood by those for whose sakes I undertook this Task, viz. the Vulgar or Common people of this Kingdom; I shall not strive to use any Cramp words or Quaint Language, but in a homely and plain Stile, deliver unto them, the Signification of this *Blazing-Star*, according to the Rules of Art; as followeth.

By the account we had of this Comet first from *Falmouth*, in the West of *England*; it was then of a Bright and clear Colour, but its Tail was of a pale colour towards the end. So then we may conclude, the Star was then of a Jovial nature, but its Tail of a *Saturnian* Hue; and by the said account, it was then in the Cælestial Sign *Scorpio*, but is now in the Sign *Aries*, and the Star really *Saturnian* so well as its Tail: it is true, when it had but newly past the Conjunction of the Sun,

and first became Occidental, its Tail was very Red, and at least Sixty Degrees long; but there was then a Tincture, or mixture of the aforesaid Colours in it. Its Tail is not Forty Degrees long now, and will be shorter as the Star gets further from the Sun. Now it being since its first appearance, of the Colour of the Planets before Nominated, and likewise of the Colour of *Mars* and *Mercury*, for *Mars* claims the Redness of its Tail, and *Mercury* will put in for a share, by reason of its various Colours; therefore we may expect, that according to the nature of those four Planets; will the effects of this new Star be: which is as followeth.

A Comet of the nature of *Saturn*, signifies many Frights and Fears among people, Trouble, Vexation, Murmuring, and Repining; Exile or Banishment to many: scarcity of Food, Penury, grievous Sickneses, Plague, Consumptions, Agues, and other Lingring Distempers: Tempestuous Winds, Shipwracks, Inundations, great Frosts and Snows; a destruction of Fruits by Worms or Caterpillars.

A Comet of the Nature of *Jupiter*, as this was at its first appearance, denotes much strugling among Men for matters of Religion, Laws and Priviledges; strivings, Wrestling and encountering each other: it signifies a plentiful and Fertile time, pleasant Salubrious Air, Seasonable Winds and Showers; and truly it is well we have some Significations of good, to buoy us up under the many mischiefs portended.

Now its Tail being sometimes Red, viz. of the Nature of *Mars*, signifies Wars, Quarrels, Sea-Fights, Slaughters, Bloodshed, Tumults, Massacres, in some places change of Governments and Governments; pestiferous Winds, terrible Thunder and Lightnings; Tempests, Shipwracks, Thieves and Robbers will abound on the Land, and Pyrates at Sea; excessive Hot Weather at sometimes, drying up Rivers and Fountains: scarcity of the Fruits of the Earth, Firing or Burning of Houses, and violent Feavers among Men.

It being of Various Colours for sometime, as I told you before, *Mercury* will have a share in its Effects, and then it denotes much Wit and Policy among Men, and as much business to imploy it about: *Astrologers* say, that it signifies the Death of Great Men, Wars, Sickneses and scarcity of Food: many men will imploy their Wits about Vild and Treacherous things, and when they have done, if questioned for the same, pretend to be as Innocent as Lambs; and truly so they may, as *Romish* Lambs, which are always of a more Infernal quality, than *Heretick*-Lyons, as they call them.

In the next place I shall give you the signification of this Star, in relation to the Signs of Heaven it has already past through, which is, *Scorpio*, *Sagittarius*, *Capricorn*, *Aquarius*, *Pisces*, and is now in *Aries*; but how much farther it will go, time must be the Informer.

A Comet or *Blazing-Star* in *Scorpio*, signifies Wars, Contentions, Controversies, alterations and Changes in the world, and chiefly among men of Martial Discipline; Trouble and Animosities among Princes; a scarcity of Waters, and fruits of the Earth, Damage to Merchants by pyrates, and much grief to Teeming Women.

In *Sagittary*, it denotes Evil to Great Men, Controversies about Religion and Laws, Feavers and other dangerous Infirmities.

In *Capricorn*, a Comet doth signifie many Wicked Actions among Men, Murders, Thefts, Robberies, Wars, Plague and Famine in many places; Troubles and Calamities to most sort of People; the Death of Great men by Poyson, or other violent means: Persecution of many for Religion, and Contempt of Religion it self; great Frosts, Snows, Hails, &c.

In *Aquary*, it denotes long lasting Wars, terrible slaughters, many kinds of Crosses and Cruelties; and in some places a sweeping Plague or Pestilence; dark obscure Air, great Winds, Thunder and Lightnings.

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When a Comet appears in *Pisces*, it signifies Eminent Strife and Contentions about Religion, Devisions, Separations, and Alienations of Relations, and former Friends: Strange and Prodigious Apparitions in the Air; scarcity of Fish, losses and crosses in Sea-Voyages, much troubles amongst great and Potent Persons.

Lastly, This Comet being in *Aries*, is the fore-runner of much mischief, troubles, War-like preparations; the Death of some Eminent Person, which will cause or occasion great Consternation in the Country where it shall happen: sharp Diseases in the Head and Eyes of people, and a Rot or Murrain among small Cattel.

*Scella Barbata*, or *Caudata*; A Star with a Beard, or long Tayl, as this Comet hath, denotes the Death of Great and Noble Men, and Wars in those Countries unto which it points its Tayl: and we may conclude, that in regard from its first appearance, it took its progress towards the Sun, its Effects will be manifested in a great measure on Eminent persons, and Inminent Actions; and I need not go about to tell where, or in what Countries the significations of this Star will appear; but in short acquaint you, That it hath already taken up a large part of *Europe*, so well as other parts, for its *Theatre*.

Thus far have I adventured to speak of this Blazing-Star unto the World, and in so doing I well hope I have Offended none that I ought not to have Offended. I would have none to be consterned or affrighted at those Presages, though they be according to the true and experienced Rules of Art; but observe the Prudent and Wise saying of Charles the Great, when he was beholding the New Star that presaged and preceeded his Death, he was very Inquisitious and desirous to know what it signified; One who stood by answers him in the Words of the Prophet Jeremiah, Chap. 10. ver. 2. Fear not the Signs of



of Heaven, though the Heathen be afraid of them; *Unto which the Emperour replied,* That he did not indeed fear any Signs of that Nature, but the Maker or cause of those Signs. *A Wise Saying, and deserves to be Written in Letters of Gold.*

I know some Critical Persons will be ready to say, that I have given no *Mathematical*, or *Astronomical* account of this Star; to which I answer, neither can it reasonably be expected that I should, any more than I have, considering the streightness of my Limits: I leave that therefore to those that shall Write a more Large Discourse hereof, to certifie the Learned.

*To conclude this Discourse, my Prayer shall be,  
That Venus and Jupiter 5<sup>th</sup> Heavens may agree.*

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**FINIS.**

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